

Carve
irregularity of the surface of the material. Additional patterns of cuts or troughs may be made along any other axis as indicated, for example, by the arrows.

Page 15, before line 5, the following paragraphs have been added:

Sub D2
A covering for an implant may be constructed substantially of a single sheet of PTFEe as shown for example in FIG. 11. A single sheet of PTFEe 40 is cut so as to permit it to be wrapped around the implant 110. Projectile tongues 42 may be fastened together or may be attached to separate PTFEe sheets 144 and 146 which serve as cap and bottom pieces. Appropriate cuts 148 are made in the single PTFEe sheet 140 to permit stretching of the sheet in various directions.

C2
The implant coverings usable in connection with this invention may be manufactured from any material which promotes limited tissue ingrowth into the material, and has a high biocompatibility and low reactivity and disorganizes scar tissue at the implant/body interface. Expanded PTFE (PTFEe) is a preferred material for this invention. PTFEe is sold under the trademark Gortex and is readily available. The expanded ultrastructure of this material is associated with a high degree of ultramicroporosity which invites tissue ingrowth. The material is approximately 50% air by volume. It is extremely strong yet soft, smooth, pliable, compressible and stretchable. Gortex is readily available in sheet form of various thicknesses, as round filaments of various diameters, and as tubes of various diameters and wall thicknesses. PTFEe sheeting stretches to a limited extent along a given axis, however resists stretching along all axes simultaneously. It is extremely biocompatible having been used in more than 700,000 clinical uses with no confirmed cases of material rejection. PTFEe is incorporated into surrounding tissue and is minimally encapsulated by collagen. The material is extremely strong and thereby would reduce the need for reoperation for material fatigue. It resists flexural fatigue by acting like a chain when bending forces